

INTERESTING RUINS.

An American's Discoveries in Peru and Bolivia.

Thought to Be the Most Ancient Remains of Lower Civilization to Be Found Upon the Western Hemisphere.

Maj. William Sully Beebe, a retired army officer living at Thompson, Conn., is about to send to the leading archaeological societies of this country and Europe what he considers proofs of some very remarkable discoveries that he has made during researches that have cost him twenty years of study and a large sum of money expended in novel lines of investigation. He believes, says the New York Sun, that his findings will convince scientists that America is the seat of an older source of civilization than either Assyria or Egypt. Maj. Beebe claims that the races that flourished around the Mediterranean—the Accadian, the Assyrian, the Egyptian, the Roman and the Greek—prove themselves to have been the borrowers from an earlier people on this continent, because in the parallels that occur in the early traces of both civilizations the greater purity is found in the American examples. Myths and symbols and folklore tales that European students have not been able to make clear are simplified when read by the light of his American discoveries. In the journey to distant lands they have been altered, copied blindly or repeated ignorantly, he thinks, so that they have obtained altered or modified meanings on the other side. To give only one example: Maj. Beebe asserts that the zodiacal sign of Sagittarius was at first an armadillo, the name of which in Peru meant an armored hare or rabbit. The sign and name remained the same wherever the armadillo was known, but by the time the symbol reached northern Mexico and the region of our states it became changed to an "armed rabbit"—a rabbit carrying a bow and arrow. It is the same sign, Maj. Beebe says, and stands for the same constellation in the heavens as the European symbol of a man with a bow and arrow, Sagittarius.

Maj. Beebe declares the most ancient remains of former civilization on this continent to be those ruins of temples and of cities that are found in the neighborhood of Lake Titicaca, on the Bolivia-Peru border. These relics are scattered over a great extent of country and reveal remarkable skill in stone cutting, in architecture and in ornament. This region is fourteen thousand feet above the sea level and too cold to provide sustenance for more than a sparse population, but there is little doubt that its climate and its population were once very different. It once supported thousands of stone-cutters who could neither live nor work there now. The Aymara tribe of Indians, the present inhabitants, have retained in great purity the language they spoke when the Spaniards conquered the country, and at that time the Spaniards took down their fables and legends in great numbers. Maj. Beebe sent a capable man there to verify the old observations and make new ones, and after a study of eight other American tongues and people to the north of the Aymaras, he is convinced that they are the relics of the oldest American semicivilization, and that their influence spread over North America. Proofs of this he claims to have found as far away as Iowa and New Jersey. He asserts that there are in Egypt, and, for that matter, all around the Mediterranean, the most evident duplications of the work of these Aymaras in dials like that at Stonehenge, in Assyrian and Egyptian buildings, in the folklore and in the languages of many peoples.

Of almost equal interest to Americans is Maj. Beebe's discovery with regard to the pictographic tablet found at Davenport, Ia., and declared by Smithsonian experts to be spurious and worse than valueless. Maj. Beebe declares that he is able to read it. He says that it reproduces the symbols and myths of the Aymara Indians, and tells the same stories that are conveyed by means of the great dial-temple at Tia Huanacu in their country—the same that Mr. Inwards, of London, found to correspond so nearly in appearance with a miniature temple left in Assyria. Maj. Beebe has reduced all his proofs to writing, and arranged the vast number of analogies that he claims to have discovered between old and new world beginnings in such a manner that when all are collected and presented in print and sent out, the scholars of the world may, with the least possible trouble, examine his work and judge his claims. He is a man of leisure and of means, who in taking up the study of Hebrew had his attention directed to those similarities between the Israelites and our North American Indians which have been often and generally discussed.

Grand Duchess Serge.

Grand Duchess Serge, of Russia, who, with her husband and Grand Duke Paul, has been to Balmoral on a visit to Queen Victoria, is the handsomest of the daughters of the late Princess Alice of Hesse. As a young girl Princess Elizabeth of Hesse attracted great attention, and she was only twenty when she was married. At the queen's jubilee Grand Duchess Serge was immensely admired, while the jewels she wore at several state entertainments—they were magnificent turquoise and diamonds—aroused universal envy. The grand duchess has no children, and it is an open secret that her married life has not been a happy one.

Great Potato Eaters.

Contrary to the general belief that Ireland leads the world in its fondness for "praties," statistics show that the people of Germany and Belgium are the greatest potato eaters; the consumption in these countries annually exceeds one thousand pounds per head of population.

A UNIQUE FACTORY.

Where Medicine and Food is Manufactured for Dogs.

One of the two factories of this country for the making of patent food and patent medicine for dogs has been described in the New York News. The founder of this novel establishment was a Scotchman. He was employed in London kennels, studied the needs of dogs, thought out special treatment for them, and finally took out patents on food and medicines, and in his unique business amassed a fortune.

On the second floor the visitor enters the receiving room of the raw materials. Thousands of pounds of butchers' scraps are brought here in the course of a month. Oatmeal in wholesale quantities and tons of herbs are used. The old-fashioned dog's bone, boneseat, catnip and beet root, under various scientific names, find a use as food or as medicine.

The second floor is occupied by four curious machines with great cylinder attachments. After the fat and the meat have been sorted, they are ground separately in these machines, and then placed in great wooden tubs where various mixtures are added.

The next process seems so much like the ordinary baker's work that one is quite disposed to taste things, and when the round and square cakes of a tempting brown have been taken from the brick ovens, one really envies the aristocratic dog. After cooling, the biscuits are packed in neat pasteboard boxes.

According to size these boxes are labelled for pet dogs, for greyhounds and for St. Bernards. There are specially prepared dishes for cats. Sufficient food to keep pussy for two days may be had for five cents. But it costs a pretty penny to keep a dog. A large dog must have six or eight cakes beside a quantity of meat. The meat costs probably about ten cents and the cakes are four cents apiece.

The most interesting department is that of the patent medicines at the top of the building. The mixture of herbs and chemicals are boiled in great kettles, and the liquid is brought up to this floor to be put in bottles of various sizes and labelled "cure for mange," "liniment for sprains," and "to prevent baldness." Sure cures for seventeen diseases, and pills as well as liquid medicines are made.

This curious establishment also makes dog collars, dog soaps, crates for carrying or shipping dogs, dog brushes and combs, blankets and mackintosh waterproofs with hoods, for greyhounds.

A RUSSIAN EMPEROR'S METHOD.

How He Replenished and Maintained the Imperial Treasury.

Among other expedients to raise money, Ivan resigned the crown in favor of a Tartar khan, who was baptized under the name of Simeon, says the Gentleman's Magazine. Ivan feigned to withdraw himself from public affairs, but in reality he held on to them, and made the new czar call in all the charters formerly granted to the monasteries and bishoprics and all the charters were cancelled. The curious interregnum, or by what other name it should be designated, lasted nearly a year, and then Ivan declared he did not like the new regime, and dismissing the baptized heathen, again took up the scepter which, as a matter of fact, he had never really discarded.

He issued fresh charters to the monasteries, but was careful to keep back several fine slices of the revenues, exporting from some of them fifty thousand and from some others one hundred thousand rubles annually. We shall see, as Ivan character is unfolded, that this spoliation of the monasteries was not the only thing in which he resembled our own merry monarch, Henry VIII. He would send his agents into the various provinces, there to buy up at low prices the whole of some particular commodity for which the province was noted.

After retaining the monopoly for awhile he would sell for a high rate and even compel merchants to buy at the prices he named. He followed a similar course with foreign imports, creating a monopoly and forbidding others to sell their stock until he had disposed of his own. By these means he cleared two hundred thousand rubles in a year.

A Yankee Skipper's Cordwood.

Capt. Robbins had an experience with the peculiar taxes in Sicily, says the Portland (Me.) Press. He took over a cargo of oil from Philadelphia to Marseilles and had thirty cords of ordinary four foot firewood to pack the oil barrels with to prevent their rolling. It is called by the sailors "oil wood." He paid for this wood one hundred and fifty dollars in Philadelphia. He did not sell in Marseilles because he expected to get more for it in Trapani. But the dealers there offered him only fifteen dollars for the whole of it, saying that the enormous tax upon it would not allow them to offer more. He declared that he'd bring it back to America before he'd sell it at that price, and so he did, and it is here in Portland now, after traveling eight thousand miles over the ocean, and it may go three thousand more, because if he can't get a decent price for it here he will take it back to England, where he is going from here with spool wood. There he can get about one hundred dollars for it. England doesn't want cordwood. She has got enough coal, and less is paid for cordwood there than here.

Supreme Courtesy.

A Bengalese magistrate, having been informed of the whereabouts of a mad dog, armed himself and went to the place where the rabid animal lay by a house door. He learned upon inquiry that two women were in the house and sent word to them that he was about to shoot the dog, and, therefore, they should not be alarmed by the report, and that as he might not inflict a fatal wound at the first fire, and, in fact, might miss, they should remain within until notified. Such a supreme courtesy is in marked contrast with that of western civilization.

A GREAT BEAR HUNTER.

Five Hundred of the Animals Slain by Gen. Wade Hampton.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, in his "Wilderness Hunter," speaks of Gen. Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, as the man who, "with horse and hound, has been the mightiest hunter America has ever seen." His special game has been bear and deer, but he has also had the fortune to kill some sixteen cougars—the panther of the east, the mountain lion of the west, and the lion and puma of South America. Of black bears, according to Mr. Roosevelt, he has probably killed more than any other man living in the United States. Thirty or forty of these he has killed with the knife.

His plan was, when he found that the dogs had the bear at bay, to walk up close and cheer them on. They would instantly seize the bear in a body, and he would then rush in and stab it behind the shoulder, reaching over so as to inflict the wound on the opposite side from that where he stood.

He escaped scathless from all these encounters save one, in which he was rather severely torn in the forearm. Many other hunters have used the knife, but perhaps none so frequently.

Gen. Hampton always hunted with large packs of hounds, managed sometimes by himself and sometimes by his negro hunters. He occasionally took out forty dogs at a time. He found that all his dogs together could not kill a big fat bear, but they occasionally killed three-year-olds, or lean and poor bears.

During the course of his life he has himself killed, or been in at the death of, five hundred bears, of which at least two-thirds have fallen by his own hands. In the years just before the war he had on one occasion, in Mississippi, killed sixty-eight bears in five months. Once he killed four bears in a day; at another time three, and frequently two.

The two largest bears he himself killed weighed respectively four hundred and eight and four hundred and ten pounds. Most of his hunting for bears was done in northern Mississippi, where he had a plantation.

FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

Curious Result of an Experiment by the Postal Authorities.

The difference between city and country ways has been illustrated in a curious manner by an experiment of the post office department, says the New York Evening Post. Under the last administration about fifty villages and small towns, ranging in population from eight hundred to four thousand inhabitants, were picked out for a trial of the system of distributing mail matter by carrier, as in large cities. At first general satisfaction was manifested, and the receipts of many of the offices for awhile showed an increase, indicating that the convenience stimulated correspondence, but as the novelty wore off the residents very generally tired of the change and returned to the old practice of going to the office themselves for their mail. A majority of the people would apparently rather have their letters lie in the office until they call for them and thus have an excuse for frequent visits to the center of local activity than have their mail delivered every day at their houses. The carrier in such places is really a foe to social activity, as "going to the post office" has always been a recognized means of mixing with men, and its occasional inconvenience is preferable to the loss of what is often only a pretext for making a break in the monotony of a retired life. In view of the evidence that there is not "a long-felt want" to be met by this system of free delivery in small communities, and of the fact that its general adoption would involve an annual expense of at least ten million dollars, the first assistant postmaster generally wisely advises a suspension of the experiment.

Mackerel Fisheries in Kerry.

A Kerry correspondent of United Ireland writes: Dingle, on the extreme western coast of Kerry, is now the center of very active operations in the mackerel fishery industry. Large takes of mackerel have been taken off the coast, and the recent trade which has sprung up in the curing of mackerel during the autumn season for the American market has brought employment and money to the doors of the the Kerry peasant and shopkeeper. Dingle is, in fact, a hive of industry at the present moment, owing to the curing and packing of mackerel for the American market. Every man, woman and child is employed, and thousands of cases are dispatched weekly to Liverpool and Glasgow for conveyance to American ports. The mackerel are found off the coast in great shoals, and a fleet of boats is engaged in capturing them, landing the fish in Dingle, where they are cured and prepared.

Photographing a Train.

"At a way station the other day," said a traveler, "I saw an amateur photographer photograph the train. I dare say this has been done a million times before, but I had never happened to see it. When the photographer was through, he waved his hand as he might have done to a single sifter to let him know that he could get up and stretch his legs. In this case the engineer was practically the sifter, and when the photographer waved his hand he opened the throttle and snaked the train out of that big open air studio almost before the photographer had time to turn around."

Cured by Being Poisoned.

The latest instance of crime bringing its own punishment comes, on the authority of Dr. Leonard Guthrie, from Italy. An Italian woman had a husband and the husband had the dropsy. But the dropsy did not work quickly enough. The woman put a toad into her husband's wine to poison him. But the poison which the toad's skin secretes has an active principle—phrynin—which much resembles digitalis, which is the best possible remedy for dropsy pending on heart disease. So, instead of killing her husband, she restored him to health.

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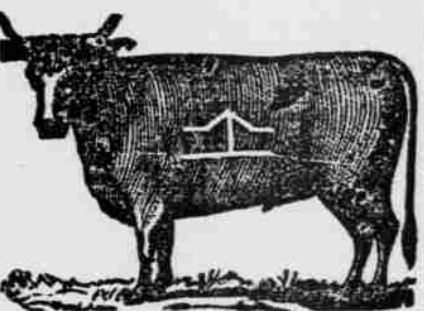
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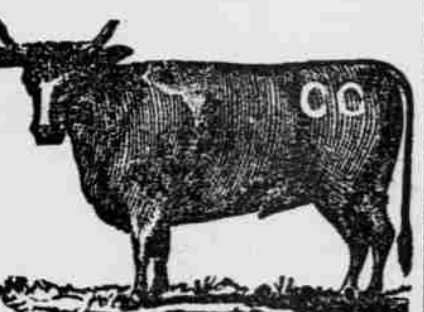


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